

19 March 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, D/E

SUBJECT: Factbook Population Totals

/1970

25X1A9a

12/5/80

000756

1. The news on 10 March 1965 that [redacted] had made what  
25X1A9a he claimed was an agreement with [redacted] for OBI to be responsible  
for providing population totals led to a series of telephone calls that day to  
discuss how other offices obtained these totals. [redacted] of ONE asks 25X1A9a  
ORR, presumably mostly about Communist countries. According to  
25X1A9a [redacted] OCR, seldom in need of this material, asks [redacted] 25X1A9a  
25X1A9a [redacted], their reference librarian, who queries the Reference Service in  
the Bureau of the Census. First, however, she searches CIA library  
materials and if necessary asks the area desk in State for information.

2. ORR has a contract with the Bureau of the Census (according  
25X1A9a to [redacted], Ext 5913) to provide them quarterly with carefully  
computed totals and population breakdowns. This was later found to be a  
large part of the ORR contract with the Bureau.

3. Two area specialists in OCI, [redacted], were interviewed 25X1A9a  
by telephone. Both start with the report Series A UN Quarterly, and if the  
information in this Quarterly is questioned, the analysts attempt to get an  
agreement between Dr. Combs of Census and Dr. Henderson of the Pentagon.

4. On 15 March I interviewed Mr. Briggs, OCR, and Otto Guthe 25X1A9a  
25X1A9a of ORR, and later ended up with [redacted] in his office, Room 5G19.  
25X1A9a [redacted] agreed to have the CIA library act as repository for population totals  
if I would have these sent to him by the Bureau of the Census. Dr. Guthe  
handed me a gift copy of their Economic Intelligence Report EIC SR5-S4.  
This furnishes population totals and breakdowns for selected years from  
1938 - 1980 and seems to be the most accurate information available in  
Washington on 14 Communist countries, including Cuba and Yugoslavia.  
25X1A9a [redacted] of ORR agreed to use these for his Factbook economic  
coverage and also agreed by telephone to use Census totals as soon as  
they became available in the CIA library. [redacted] resisted all of my 25X1A9a  
efforts to have anything to do with the population totals. I pointed out that  
since the Factbook had now become national intelligence we must assure  
that its content is as accurate as possible. He grinned, cited his alleged  
25X1A9a agreement with Gerard, and refused to do anything further. He had  
crossed out the population totals on all of the triple-spaced flexewriter  
sheets handed to OCI analysts.

5. On 18 March Julia Hyman, Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
described its method of achieving population totals and breakdowns.  
Of eight Manpower sections done during the past season, about half  
used Series A data, two used different data because the breakdowns  
in UN Series A were insufficient. Another section used revisions based

on the ILO Yearbook, searched data from the embassies and official data within the country. Some discrepancies had been noted. The UN statistics for China for mid-1963 showed 7.3 million; 6.10 million was found to be a more realistic figure. The UN figures on Egypt were revised downward from 25.93 million to 25.77 million. The UN data on Peru presented as 9.74 million for July 1961 was contrasted with local data for March 1964 which said 9.907 million. In other words, they lost ground during three years. The prospect now seems that we will come up with uniform but possibly inaccurate data for some countries, so we need OCI review of these totals for our May/June issue. If the Factbook is used by all producers, discrepancies should be brought to light and accuracy improved by the time the following issue appears this fall.

6. Dr. Henderson has agreed to furnish population totals with all of his manpower statements in the Defense Forces parts of the Factbook to show what his estimates are based upon.

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DAD/BI

CC: SA/AD/BI